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MAR 25 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief of Naval Operations

SUBJECT : Fitness Reports of Navy Officers Assigned to CIA

1. I am concerned with the possibility that officers assigned to this Agency may not be accorded promotional and other benefits comparable to their contemporaries on duty with the Navy. This may be due in part to the fact that fitness reports on the majority of assigned officers are prepared in letter form by civilian superiors or by senior officers of another branch of service. Further, the sensitive operations in which many of these officers participate frequently preclude detailed descriptions of their duties and performance.

2. I have directed that all fitness reports be made as comprehensive and representative as security considerations permit. To protect the professional careers of these officers, and to assure recognition of their services, it is requested that your selection boards be advised of the circumstances necessitating the non-standard fitness reports. This step should reassure officers who might otherwise feel that assignment to intelligence duties will adversely affect their career advancement.

WALTER B. SMITH
Director

FTD/bks/nm
cc: DCI
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